

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A camera control system capable of controlling a video camera connected to a camera server by transmitting a video camera control command from a client, wherein said client comprises input means for inputting a video camera control command; and control request transmitting means for transmitting an acquisition request for a video camera control right to the camera server, when the video camera control command is input from said input means,

and wherein the camera server comprises permission command issuing means for issuing a permission of the video camera control right to said client, in response to the acquisition control request for the video camera control right issued by said request transmitting means of said client; and control means for controlling the video camera in accordance with the video camera control command issued by said client.

2. A camera control system according to claim 1, wherein if the client is not granted the video camera control right, said control request transmitting means transmits the acquisition request for the video camera control right.

3. A camera control system according to claim 1, wherein the client further comprises:

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storage means for storing the video camera control
command input by said input means, the video camera
control command according to the transmission of the
acquisition request for the video camera control right;
5 and

control command issuing means for issuing the
video camera control command stored in said storage
means to the camera server, when a permission of the
video camera control right is issued from said
10 permission command issuing means.

4. A camera control system according to claim 1,
wherein said control request transmitting means
transmits at the same time the acquisition request for
15 the video camera control right and the video camera
control command input by said input means.

5. A camera control system according to claim 1,
wherein said control request transmitting means
20 transmits the acquisition request for the video camera
control right and in succession the video camera
control command input by said input means.

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25 6. A camera control system according to claim 1,
wherein the video camera control command includes at
least one of an image pickup direction and a zoom
magnification factor of the video camera.

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7. A client capable of controlling a video camera via a network, comprising:

input means for inputting a video camera control command; and

5 control request transmitting means for transmitting an acquisition request for a video camera control right to the camera server, when the video camera control command is input from said input means.

10 8. A client according to claim 7, wherein if the client is not granted the video camera control right, said control request transmitting means transmits the acquisition request for the video camera control right.

15 9. A client according to claim 7, wherein the client further comprises:

storage means for storing the video camera control command input by said input means, the video camera control command according to the transmission of the acquisition request for the video camera control right; and

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control command issuing means for issuing the video camera control command stored in said storage means to a camera server, when a permission of the video camera control right is issued.

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10. A client according to claim 7, wherein said

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control request transmitting means transmits at the same time the acquisition request for the video camera control right and the video camera control command input by said input means.

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11. A client according to claim 7, wherein said control request transmitting means transmits the acquisition request for the video camera control right and in succession the video camera control command input by said input means.

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12. A client according to claim 7, wherein the video camera control command includes at least one of an image pickup direction and a zoom magnification factor of the video camera.

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13. A camera server for controlling a video camera in accordance with an input video camera control command, comprising:

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control means for controlling the video camera in accordance with the video camera control command issued by a client granted a video camera control right;

register means for registering the client granted the video camera control right; and

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reception means for receiving the video camera control command,

wherein if the video camera control command from a

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client not registered in said register means is
received, said register means registers the client if
there is no other client registered, and said control
means controls the video camera in accordance with the
5 video camera control command.

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14. A method of controlling a video camera by a
client via a network, comprising the steps of:
inputting a video camera control command; and
10 transmitting an acquisition request for a video
camera control right to the camera server, when the
video camera control command is input.

15 15. A method of controlling a video camera by a
client via a network according to claim 14, wherein if
the client is not granted the video camera control
right, the acquisition request for the video camera
control right is transmitted.

20 16. A method of controlling a video camera by a
client via a network according to claim 14, further
comprising the steps of:
storing the input video camera control command,
the input video camera control command being associated
25 with the transmission of the acquisition request for
the video camera control right; and
issuing the stored video camera control command to

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a camera server, when a permission of the video camera control right is issued.

5 17. A method of controlling a video camera by a client via a network according to claim 14, wherein the acquisition request for the video camera control right and the input video camera control command are transmitted at the same time.

10 18. A method of controlling a video camera by a client via a network according to claim 14, wherein the acquisition request for the video camera control right is transmitted and in succession the input video camera control command is transmitted.

15 19. A method of controlling a video camera by a client via a network according to claim 14, wherein the video camera control command includes at least one of an image pickup direction and a zoom magnification
20 factor of the video camera.

20. A method of controlling a video camera by a camera server in accordance with an input video camera control command, comprising the steps of:

25 controlling the video camera in accordance with the video camera control command issued by a client granted a video camera control right;

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registering the client granted the video camera control right; and

receiving the video camera control command,

wherein if the video camera control command from a client not registered is received, the client is registered if there is no other client registered, and the video camera is controlled in accordance with the video camera control command.

21. A storage medium storing a computer readable program for controlling a video camera by a client via a network, the program comprising the steps of:

inputting a video camera control command; and transmitting an acquisition request for a video camera control right to the camera server, when the video camera control command is input.

22. A storage medium according to claim 21, wherein if the client is not granted the video camera control right, the acquisition request for the video camera control right is transmitted.

23. A storage medium according to claim 21, wherein the program further comprises the steps of: storing the input video camera control command, the input video camera control command being associated with the transmission of the acquisition request for

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the video camera control right; and

issuing the stored video camera control command to a camera server, when a permission of the video camera control right is issued.

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24. A storage medium according to claim 21, wherein the acquisition request for the video camera control right and the input video camera control command are transmitted at the same time.

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25. A storage medium according to claim 21, wherein the acquisition request for the video camera control right is transmitted and in succession the input video camera control command is transmitted.

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26. A storage medium according to claim 21, wherein the video camera control command includes at least one of an image pickup direction and a zoom magnification factor of the video camera.

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27. A storage medium storing a computer readable program for controlling a video camera by a camera server in accordance with an input video camera control command, the program comprising the steps of:

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controlling the video camera in accordance with the video camera control command issued by a client granted a video camera control right;

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registering the client granted the video camera
control right; and

receiving the video camera control command,

wherein if the video camera control command from a
5 client not registered is received, the client is
registered if there is no other client registered, and
the video camera is controlled in accordance with the
video camera control command.

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